

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, July 7. 1705.

I Have spent some Time, and some People I find think too much on the Subject of Peace; I have been Moving and Inviting all Parties to put their helping Hands to this Necessary Work, and principally to be careful to Choose such Gentlemen to Represent them in the Approaching Parliament, as are Bless'd with those Healing Principles, which seem particularly and absolutely necessary at this Extraordinary Juncture, AND I HOPE THEY HAVE DONE IT.

If in the Negative part of my Discourse on this Head, it has come in my way to tell who they *should not* Choose, by way of Direction to the Affirmative, *who they should*, and if it has been impossible to do this, without running *Full Bust* against the Gentlemen of the 134, they must Excuse me, and blame their putting themselves just in the way of our Peace, that we could not pursue it, without Driving over them.

But I am Unhappily Embarrass'd now with a whole Party, and Assaulted with all Manner of Malice, for Endeavouring to show the Beauty of that Heavenly Temper

these Men want, and which in particular they hate.

It would really be too much Satyr upon the Gentlemen of the other side, if I should only Publish their own Letters to me upon the Subject; some that are merely Diverging, I may give the World a Sight of, but some that are Villanous and Base, I Conceal for the sake of that Peace I would fain move them to by my Example.

'Twould even reflect upon the Nation in general, if I should give the Particulars of about 20 to 30 Letters, most of which threaten my Life, and the World might think *England* coming into the Mode of *Italy*. Indeed we have seen too much of this Method lately, and Justice seems to wait but a few Weeks to make a sad Example from a Set of Assassimators, the Murtherers of the *Scotch Man of Queenborough*.

To all the Gentlemen who are so Exceeding Angry at me for Inviting them to Peace, as to Threaten my Throat, and the like, I make this Serious Request, Let them step to *Maidstone* Gaol, and there Discourse a little with their Brother Murtherers; and if their

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Condition pleases them, let them follow their Steps if they can.

Indeed, Gentlemen, the Mean Despicable Author of this Paper, is not worth your Attempting his Correction at the Price; Gaols, Fetters, and Gibbets, are odd Melancholy things; for a Gentleman to *Dangle out of the World in a Strang*, has something so Ugly, so Awkard, and so Disagreeable in it, that you cannot think of it, without some Regret, and then the Reflection will be very harsh, that this was for Killing a Poor Mortify'd Author, one that the Government had Kill'd before. It can never be worth your while, Gentlemen, and therefore he hopes you will Content your selves with telling him so, and let him alone to Time and Age, which is hast'ning upon us all, and will certainly at last do the Work to your Hand.

Prefuming upon the Prevalency of these Arguments, and the Sovereignty of your Reason as *Men*, your Religion as *Protestants*, and your Native Generosity of Temper, as *English Men*.

I move about the World Unguarded and Unarm'd, a little Stick not strong enough to Correct a Dog, supplies the Place of Mr. O——r's Great Oaken-Towel, a Sword sometimes perhaps for Decency, but it is all harmless to a meer Nothing; can do no hurt any where but just at the Tip of it, call'd the Point——And what's that in the Hand of a Feeble Author?

Let him alone, Gentlemen, and have Patience, you'll all come to be of his Mind e're long; and then if you had Kill'd him, you would have been sorry for it.

The Days are at hand, I doubt, when you will all own, he that perswaded you to Peace, was in the right of it and that having Despis'd Peace at Home, God Almighty in Mercy to you, will Deny you Peace Abroad.

I can much Easier Jest with the Impotent Rage of the Enemies, to the Publick Peace, threatening to Kill me, than I can with the serious and sad Apprehensions I receive from a protracted War, from Broken Measures, Backward Preparations, Uncertain Confederates and the like.

And yet this Bullying Method is not the

only Treatment the Author of this has to Complain of——But now he has had a Storm of a more scandalous Assassination, Studying to Ruine and Embroil him, Crowds of Sham-Actions, Arrests, Sleeping Debates in Trade of 17 Years standing Reviv'd; Debts put in Suit after Contracts and Agreements under Hand and Seal; and which is worse, Writs taken out for Debts, without the Knowledge of the Creditor, and some after the Creditor has been Paid; Diligent Sollicitations of Persons not Enclin'd to Sue, pressing them to give him Trouble; others offering to Buy Assignments of Debts, that they might be Sued; for others to turn Setters and Informers to Betray him into the Hands of Trouble; Collateral Bonds Sued, where the Securities have been Resign'd and Accepted.

It would take up too much of the Reader's Time, to Trouble the World with the Barbarous Treatment shown a Man just strip'd Naked by the Government; 'tis like Suing a Man just Ransom'd from *Algier*; and could I descend to Particulars, would be too Moving to be read.

That this is all for the Party; that this is a Pique at the Subject, as well as the Author; speak Conscience and tell us, *Why were none of these things done before?*

Under all these Design'd Mischiefs, a diligent Report has been rais'd, That this Unhappy Author was carried to *Newgate*, and some have been so kind to go thither to Visit him.

All Tongues may do much; but I cannot but tell a certain Gentleman, who has offered 100 l. to have it so, That it will hardly be in his Power to Effect it.

Pardon me, Gentlemen, to Enquire into the Impotence of this Malice, a Gaol would not Check this Paper. Perhaps, if you could bring it to pass, it might furnish me with Leisure to perform it better.

To those whose Designs are Different, they may see who they Gratify; and I Appeal to all the World, *What in this Paper* has Merited this Persecution?

Were all the Prosecutions Legal, Debts Just, and Circumstances requiring, yet really Gentlemen, when you reflect in what Hands he has been in, 'tis something Barbarous

rous, Common Compassion leads Men to bear with Men, whose Houses have been Burn'd, or who by Publick Disaster are Disabled; if his House has not been Burn'd, it has been Plunder'd.

Will you have No Compassion! Well, Gentlemen, this must all they expect, who presume to Venture in plainness and without Flattery to tell Men their Crimes; Neither will all this Refrain his Pen from writing, the Truth Depending upon it; that the Author of that Truth, will One time or Other, Own at least the Work, if not the Unworthy Author.

Suits at Law, Gaol, Murther, Assassination, and all that Malice can Contrive, are therefore, without their Influence on me; I Avoid the first, and Contemn the last; the Law, I Trust, will protect me from the first; and I freely run the Venture of the last, and so proceed to the next Method, now taking with me—and that is Banter, Raille-ry and Reflection.

And what good does all this Scribbling do, says one, you had has good let it alone? And whereas you pretend much of the Publick Service being the End, and you would not write but for the Publick Service; since there is no Publick Service in it, pray show your Sincerity by Laying it Down.

The Difficulty here lies in what we shall understand by the Publick Service, and Doing Good.

I understand perswading us all to be at Peace with One Another, to be a Publick Service, and Doing Good. These Gentlemen perhaps understand it another way, I am Sorry for them; without Doubt, they they that believe Intestine Discords, Civil, Dissention, Strife and Oppression, the Need-ful Help to this Nations Happiness, Differ from me, and I from them, and I Doubt shall always do so.

If I am mistaken in the Subject, I Ought to be Convin'd, that Peace and Union is not for the Publick Good, that 'tis better for us to be murthering One Another to pieces, Tearing and Destroying One Another, and the like.

Now, these Gentlemen will undertake to prove ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Laws~~ ^{Laws} for Persecution of Dis-

senters, Feuds and Breaches in the Legislature, Invading Privileges, Heats, Animosities and Violence of Parties, are particularly for the Publick Service, and Help to the Publick Good.

If they will make it out, that Delaying Supplies, and Retarding Preparations, Wounding Publick Credit, and Weakening our Hands, would be particularly Encouraging to our Confederates Abroad, and support better the Protestant Cause.

If they can prove, that Quarrels, Heats, Feuds, and Dangerous Experiments, will help us to beat the French; that being Divided at Home, we shall be the better prepar'd to Defend our selves against Invasion from Abroad.

If they can Demonstrate, that to be all to pieces in our Civil Interests, is the best Method to Deprive the Parties Abroad of all Hopes that their Cause will one Day or other be reviv'd among us; that 'tis the Shortest Way to Close all their Expectations; that while we are Jangling and Clashing, Writing and Fighting in Parties at Home, it will Effectually fore-close the French in their Designs of Universal Monarchy, and sink their Expectation of reducing us by force.

If these things can be made out, I confess I shall be in the Dark, and will immediately acknowledge I am in a strange Mistake, that all my Notions of Things are wrong, that I have receiv'd false Idea's of the Publick Affairs; for indeed I did not know that when our Lord said, *A Kingdom Divided against it self, cannot stand*; that the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, were Excepted out of the General Rule, with a *Cujus Contrarium Verum est*.

Now as I am, and always shall be ready to receive, and freely Accept the Informations of Men, more knowing than my self, I am in Daily Expectation of something very Considerable upon this Subject, which will make out these Enigma's, Unriddle all this Mystery, and prove that Her Majesty was mistaken in Her Speech for Peace and Union, that we are all wrong in our Construction of the Text above; and so by Consequence, that I am the Lord knows what of an incendiary, a
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favobite, and a Publick Enemy to the Nation, and when this comes, I am content to be call'd so.

Whereas a Propofal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subscriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Satyr upon Tyranny and Passive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long fince Subscrib'd, and the Time seeming long for its coming out, fome very Good Reasons having oblig'd the Author to put a ftop to it,

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